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BADGES FOR EARLY BIRDMEN

by J. Duncan Campbell

Although within the memory of living men, the fascinating story of insignia for early birdmen is still obscure, for no one has ever brought together in minute detail the sequence of development of wings for United States military airmen.

The first badge for aviators is a unique creation which came about as a result of what today might be called a misinterpretation. When a distinctive device was deemed proper back in 1913 for U.S. Army airplane pilots, the designers thought in terms of contemporary *qualification* badges. The resultant design was a hybrid of the badges for experts with rifle and pistol, but instead of crossed weapons within wreaths suspended from appropriately lettered bars, the badge for airmen displayed a flying eagle grasping the crossed flags of the Signal Corps (to whom early aircraft and flight personnel were assigned) suspended from a 1¼-inch bar reading *MILITARY AVIATOR*. (Fig. 1). After the design was approved on 27 May 1913, an initial order was placed in September of that year for twenty-five to be struck in 14-karat gold. Chief Signal Officer (Brigadier General) George P. Scriven sent a memo to the Army Chief of Staff which said: "It is believed that about 25 badges will be sufficient for some time to come."¹

One of the first fourteen issued went to then Lieutenant of Infantry Henry H. (Hap) Arnold, who wore it proudly through two World Wars. A formal photograph made of him soon after his 1944 elevation to four-star rank as Commanding General of the United States Army Air Forces shows his old 1913 Military Aviator's qualification badge nestled among his highest decorations.

The military aviator badge was the only distinctive device worn in the Aviation Section of the

Signal Corps from its inception in August 1914 until after we entered World War I and the branch was considerably enlarged.

Special Regulations No. 41, War Department, 15 August 1917, introduced a whole new series of devices for airmen. The commissioned "military aviator" wore a 3-inch "double-wing shield (of silver bullion) over the left breast." (Fig. 2). "Junior military aviators," also commissioned, were prescribed a 2-inch "single wing shield (of silver bullion) over the left breast." (Fig. 3). The embroidered gold letters US on the shield were not described in the regulations, but appeared on official drawings of the new insignia. Enlisted pilots were to wear a 5-inch sleeve device bearing a four-bladed propellor and double wing of white silk placed on a dark blue felt background. Aviation "mechanicians" were prescribed a four-bladed propellor within a 2½-inch circle with aero squadron number above—all in white silk—on a dark blue felt background. (Fig. 4). Enlisted soldiers of the Aviation Section were authorized a device consisting of a 2-inch four-bladed propellor with aero squadron number above, in white silk, on a blue felt background. (Fig. 5).

When these new insignia appeared, the war in Europe was in its third year. British and French aviation services had long since adopted the half-wing as the device for observers, indicating they could not fly alone. When the "junior military aviators" were prescribed a half-wing, they rose up in righteous wrath and showered a storm of protest on the War Department. On 27 October 1917 the War Department yielded with an amendment to SR #41. Military aviators were to wear the double wing shield with a five-pointed star

over the shield, (Fig. 6); junior and reserve military aviators wore the full double wing without the star (as in Fig. 2); and their old badge with half-wing (Fig. 3) was handed down to observers, indicating they couldn't fly alone.

The next major change in Signal Corps Aviation Section wings came on 29 December 1917. The observer saw his shield with US replaced by the Gothic letter O on half-wings, reduced to 1¼-inch size. (Fig. 7). "Military aeronauts" were prescribed a 3-inch double wing, with "balloon with US and basket at center, star over balloon." Junior and reserve aeronauts wore the device without star. (In metal, Fig. 8). Balloon "mechanicians" did not receive their distinctive sleeve device until 15 October 1918, when they were prescribed a white silk balloon with basket suspended below, within a 2½-inch ring of white silk, all on blue felt.

Because officers' wings were embroidered of silver bullion they became dull, black and dirty after hard service, and cleaning was most difficult since they were sewed to the uniform coat over the left breast pocket. In 1918 an enterprising manufacturer in San Antonio, Texas, (the late Dan S. Dunham), brought out pilot's wings made of three separate pieces of silver—left wing, center shield, right wing—all applied on the regulation dark blue cloth background stiffened with a metal back insert which also carried the pin and safety catch to attach the wings to the uniform coat. (Fig. 9). The metal wings could be polished, and the pin made removal easy. These badges not only solved the problem of keeping the wings clean and bright, but were so beautifully made they became quite popular with military pilots. (General William L. "Billy" Mitchell's 1918 uniform in Smithsonian Institution displays this type of wings.)

Undoubtedly someone in the War Department saw these newfangled wings, for on 25 January 1919 Change # 7 to SR # 41 was published, eliminating embroidered wings in favor of solid silver metal:

Military aviator, junior military aviator and reserve military aviator—"a device of oxidized silver consisting of a pair of wings with the shield between; three inches, tip to tip;" (Fig. 10).

Military aeronaut, junior military aeronaut and reserve military aeronaut—"a device of oxidized silver consisting of a pair of wings with a balloon between. Device to measure three and one-eighth inches from tip to tip;" (Fig. 11).

Observer—"An oxidized silver single wing to the left of the letter O in bright silver; the O to encircle the letters US in oxidized silver in relief on an oxidized silver background. The device to measure one and seven-eighths inches in length." (Fig. 12).

Flying instructors—"Gilt insignia of the same design and size (1½-inches) as for the Air Service, omitting the propellor. To be worn just above the right cuff on all coats." (Figs. 13 and 30).

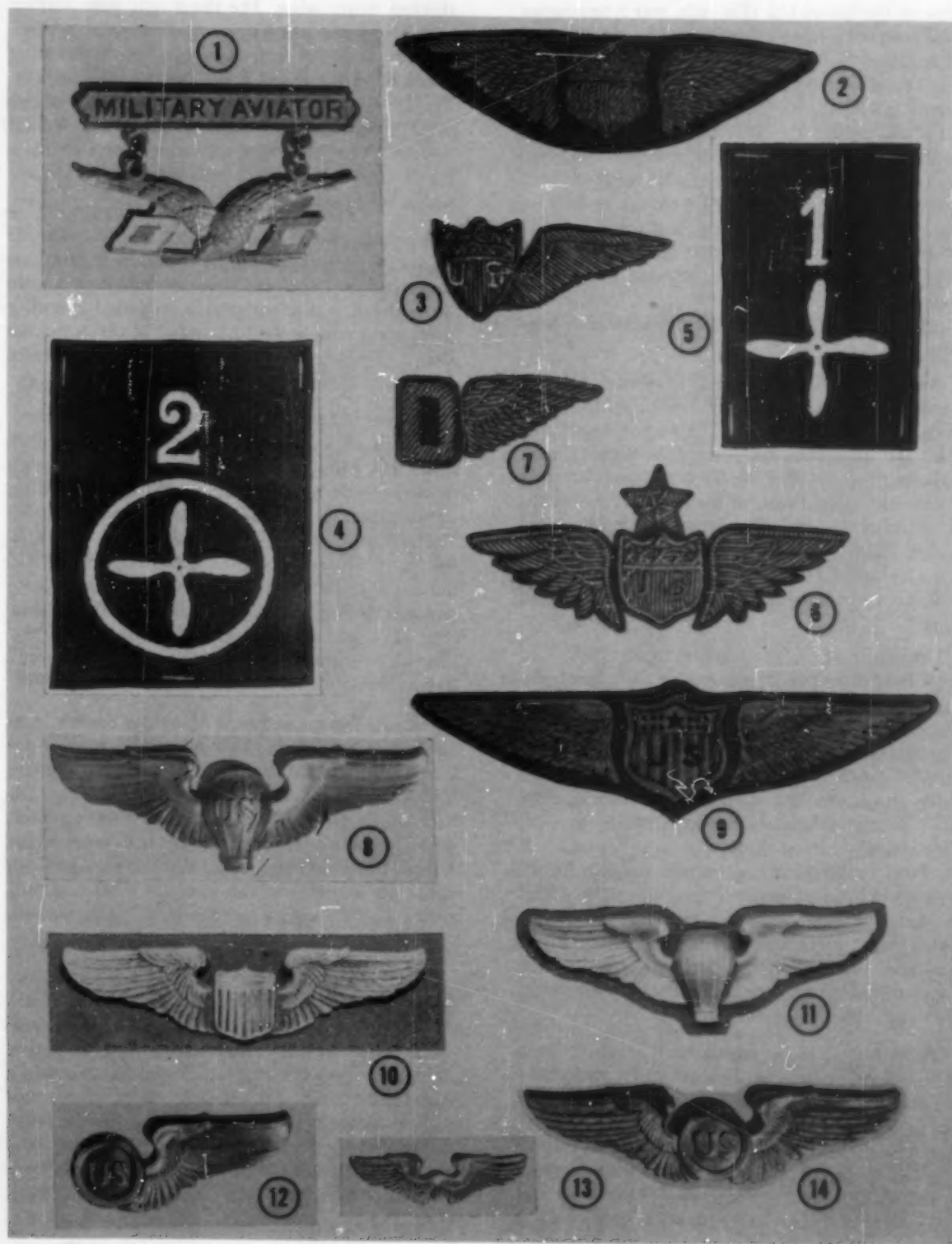
These regulations of January 1919 did away with the letters US on the shield of the pilot's wings and on the balloon center. The aeronaut's wings shown in Figure 8 were either made in error after the regulations came out, or were made in 1918 when the US was prescribed, but solid, one-piece silver wings weren't! It is more probable that they appeared in 1918, after metal three-piece wings for pilots appeared.

Less than a week after the new designs were announced by the War Department they were illustrated in the *Air Service Journal* with some very acid remarks denouncing one and all of them. After commenting on the aeronaut's wings: "an anomaly, as the wings are attached to a prehistoric type of free balloon," the writer shifted his typewriter into second and laced into the observer's half-wing with these words: [The observer] "continues to have as his badge of distinction a single wing without proportion or balance. Our allies give the observer an attractive insignia set at an angle which clearly satisfies the eye and does not make it obviously a makeshift. The U.S. in the circle resembles a commercial coat button." In his final blast, with his sights set on the new pilot's wings, he wrote: "The aviator wings have the merit of simplicity if not beauty. Resentment is felt in the service over changing insignia with each whim of artistic genius and if it is not too late it is hoped to have the matter reconsidered."²

It was too late, and the matter was not reconsidered.

The next important change in wings came on 12 November 1920, involving veteran pilots who couldn't pass the physical examination to continue as pilots, but who were re-rated as observers in order to stay on flying status and receive flight pay. Rather than embarrass them with half-wings, which other observers wore, they were authorized a full wing with letters US within the center circle. (Fig. 14).

The final change in wings for early birdmen came on 14 October 1921, when all observers were prescribed a full wing with an O at the center, but



without the letters US. (Fig. 15); and a newcomer appeared for airship pilots, with the side view of a "zeppelin" at the center of the wings. (Fig. 16).

No further changes in wings occurred until November 1941, on the eve of World War II.

Collar insignia for early military airmen could be dismissed in a few words if regulations had been followed. From 1913 until 13 June 1918, both officers and enlisted men of the Aviation Section were to wear the crossed flags and torch insignia of the Signal Corps; after that date, the familiar wings- and-propellor device became the branch insignia for Air Service.

But regulations have never impeded flamboyant flyboys.

As early as 27 December 1917, something had gone askew. The *Air Service Journal* of that date (page 782) had this to say: "A recent order provides that all officers and men of the Signal Corps, including the Aviation Section, will wear on their collars the crossed flags of the Signal Corps without addition thereto. This order apparently is intended to do away with the insignia, unofficially worn by cadet aviators, which bore a small pair of silver wings superimposed on the crossed signal flags."

The spirit of youth will not be crushed, and these bold, brave cadet aviators of the pioneer era had to add something to their insignia so that the world wouldn't confuse them with pole-climbers, wire-stringers, and telephone operators! Perhaps some of these cadet aviators still living will plead guilty to the charges of adding unauthorized devices, but the weight of evidence indicates that the practice of wearing them was more widespread than the *Air Service Journal* article suggests. In the author's collection there are three distinctly different unauthorized patterns, each with variations, which were purchased in California, Texas, Pennsylvania, and New York. They must have been popular—with more Aviation Section personnel than just cadet aviators!

The first type is the standard 1¼-inch insignia of the Signal Corps with a pair of small silver wings added. Three variations in these wings, and one in shirt size, indicate that at least three manufacturers produced them. (Fig. 17). The second type differs in that the small silver wings have a world globe at their center. (Fig. 18). A second variation illustrated has a heavier globe and a

thicker, blunt wing. The third type goes farther afield from the standard Signal Corps device because it omits the center torch and places the wing overhead rather than on front of the insignia. Unlike all others, the wing is not silver, but of the same brown color as the flags. (Fig. 19). A final "oddball" in this series, a complete mystery, is a 1-inch shirt size insignia with only the world-and-wings, all bronze. (Fig. 20).

There is another enigma among the collar insignia. No reference can be found in regulations prescribing it, but apparently enlisted aviators wore a round collar disc with the four-bladed propellor and wings that were authorized in cloth for the sleeve. The numeral "1" at top center indicates First Aero Squadron. (Fig. 21).

Many Air Service officers were overseas when the wings-and-propellor device was prescribed in June 1918. Military tailors and uniform companies in both England and France sold the "new" insignia which were made in their native countries. The officers' insignia made by Bailey, Banks & Biddle of Philadelphia was advertised in the *Air Service Journal* as struck "on the standard Government die." (Fig. 22). The English-made insignia (Fig. 23), has a much broader wing; and the French product (Fig. 24), is distinctly different from either of the first two. All are 1¼-inch width.

Insignia for enlisted men of the Air Service, prescribed in 1918, bore the wings-and-propellor device, but of a solid bronze color instead of having a silver propellor as on officers' insignia. (Fig. 25). The cap insignia for NCOs in the first three grades, prior to the adoption of the coat-of-arms of the United States in large round disc for all Army enlisted personnel, was the wing (bronze) and propellor (silver) device within a 1½-inch wreath. (Fig. 26).

The last insignia to be described is a shoulder patch. After the various infantry divisions of World War I adopted patches, rear echelon troops quickly followed suit, and before long everybody from Services of Supply to Postal Service had a distinctive patch. Air Service Mechanics, not to be outdone, wore a device of the aircraft cockade (1¼-inch diameter) with white center, blue middle circle and red outer circle. Above is their distinctive monogram, A (red), S (white), M (blue). (Fig. 27.)



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Uniforms of all wars seem to "dissolve" rapidly. Some are worn out by necessity after returning home, some are ripped and torn on hunting and fishing excursions, some are thrown away promptly, some are thrown away after storage in the attic



for a few years, and some are discarded when they become "tight fits." Not many survive even a few short years. As an example, consider an Air Service officer's uniform blouse of World War I, worn not quite 45 years ago. First, there were few officers in the Air Service, as compared with other branches of service; of these, no more than half were airplane pilots. Mortality rates among pioneer pilots overseas and in the United States were high, and apparently those who survived the war had no higher regard for their uniforms than those in other branches of service. They have become mighty scarce.

In figures 28, 29, and 30, a World War I pilot's uniform is shown. The wings are those of a junior or reserve aviator; the right cuff bears the wings-without-propellor insignia of a flying instructor; the left sleeve has two Vs indicating a year of overseas service; and the collar and shoulder insignia round out the picture, designating a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Service. It was added to the author's collection through the courtesy of Company Member Chester J. Yatacak, who found it recently in California.

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¹ National Geographic Society *Insignia and Decorations of the U.S. Armed Forces*, Washington, 1 December 1944 Revised Edition, p. 199.

² *Air Service Journal*, 1 February 1919.



COLONEL WALTER H. TAYLOR, C.S.A.

by Carroll H. Walker

The photographs shown here are those of Colonel Walter H. Taylor, General Robert E. Lee's well

known adjutant. They are reproductions of a daguerreotype and an ambro-type now in the pos-

session of Colonel Taylor's granddaughter, Miss Janet Taylor, who resides in Norfolk with her father, Walter H. Taylor III. These photographs never have been reproduced before.

The picture of the young cadet is that of Colonel Taylor as a student at the Virginia Military Institute (Class of 1857). He was born in Norfolk, Va., on 13 June 1838. He was in his second year at the Institute when the yellow fever plague ravished Norfolk in the summer and fall of 1855. His father succumbed to the disease in October of that year, and young Taylor ultimately had to give up his studies and return to Norfolk to help support his widowed mother. It is interesting to note that he was given an honorary degree by the Virginia Military Institute in 1870.¹

The other picture is that of Taylor when he was a first lieutenant in the Southern Guard, or "Company F," as the unit became known shortly after its organization. The Southern Guard, a Volunteer militia company, was formed in Norfolk on 2 December 1859, and Taylor at that time was shown as being orderly sergeant of the company.² The Southern Guard was attached to Norfolk's 54th Regiment of militia. When first organized, the Southern Guard adopted a temporary uniform of red flannel hunting shirts, "as worn by VMI cadets at that time" (Taylor's influence?), black pants, and glazed hats. The uniform as chosen was necessary in order to receive equipment (such as arms), according to a local newspaper at that time, and it was further stated "it was hoped that the Virginia Legislature, then meeting, would repeal the old militia law and establish a uniform for all volunteer companies."³

On 13 March 1860, Company F was reported as having drilled for the first time in full uniform, with fifty men present. It was further announced that, "The caps, cartridge box, and cross belts are after the style of the 7th Regt. of New York. Their coats and pants are of blue cloth and present a perfectly uniform appearance in shade and cut."⁴

While the *Richmond Daily Dispatch* of 1 March 1861 observed that Company F's uniform consisted of a "blue frock coat, trimmed with gold cord, blue trousers, black cap and pompon,"⁵ there is, however, no evidence of gold cord on Taylor's uniform; and with the exception of the epaulettes, the sash and sword, and perhaps the buckle, there is no indication of rank other than the fact that the subject is obviously an officer. A pencilled notation in Tay-

lor's handwriting on a piece of paper inserted between the picture and the back of its case reads, "1st Lieut. Comp F 6VA, April 1861."

Apparently, there was a single row of nine buttons on the coat. These were probably Virginia State seal buttons. Although the design on the buckle is obscure, this is believed to be the two-piece Virginia buckle; in fact, a close examination through a strong magnifying glass leads one to believe that it is. It is also well to note that the cuffs are peaked without colored edging.

Some months before the outbreak of the war Company F became a part of the 3rd Battalion of Virginia Volunteers, composed of the city's volunteer companies under Major William E. Taylor.⁶ The company enrolled for active service on 19 April 1861, and that night took part in the removal of the powder from the United States magazine at Fort Norfolk. Afterwards, the company was sent to Craney Island where it had charge of a battery of heavy guns. On 30 April 1861, Company F was mustered into State service, and in May 1861, was designated as Co. G, 6th Regiment of Virginia Volunteers.⁷ Taylor, as a lieutenant, served only a very short time with the company after the commencement of hostilities. He received an appointment in the Provisional Army, with the subsequent assignment to the staff of General Lee.⁸

Colonel Taylor's Confederate uniform, and some of his accoutrements, are displayed in the Virginia Room of the Confederate Museum, Richmond, Va.

When Colonel Taylor died in Norfolk on 1 March 1916, all flags in the State flew at half mast on the specific order of Governor Henry Carter Stuart.⁹

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- ¹ Supplied by courtesy of Colonel J. A. Hagen, USMC, Ret., Norfolk, Va., Alumnus VMI.
- ² *Southern Argus*, Norfolk, Va., 5 December 1859.
- ³ *Southern Argus*, 14 December 1859.
- ⁴ *Southern Argus*, 13 March 1860; *The Day Book*, Norfolk, Va., 22 March 1860.
- ⁵ *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, Richmond, Va., 1 March 1861.
- ⁶ *Official records, Armies*, ser. I, vol. LI, part 2, p. 41; John W. H. Porter, *History of Norfolk County 1861-65*, Portsmouth, Va., 1892, p. 311.
- ⁷ Muster Roll, Co. G, 6th Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, for period ending 30 June 1861, Record Group 109, National Archives; Porter, *op. cit.*, p. 269.
- ⁸ Porter, *op. cit.*, pp. 272, 309.
- ⁹ To Miss Janet Taylor, Norfolk, Va., the writer is grateful for permission to reproduce the photographs, and for much of the biographical data, of Colonel Taylor.



MILITARY DRESS

The Chicago Black Horse Troop, 1929-1940

Plate No. 173

Soon after assuming command of the 33rd Division, Illinois National Guard, in 1927, Major General Roy D. Keehn requested authority from the War Department to organize in Chicago an additional troop and a mounted band as part of the 106th Cavalry Regiment, Illinois National Guard. These units were to be specially uniformed, equipped, and mounted, so as to furnish a spectacular feature for Chicago civic functions.

General Charles P. Summerall, Chief of Staff, United States Army, secured War Department approval of the activation of these units, which were unofficially designated the Chicago Black Horse Troop and Mounted Band. The troop—officially Headquarters Troop, 106th Cavalry—received Federal recognition on 27 April 1929, the band on 12 June 1929.

To fully equip a troop and band of this character, approximately 100 matched black horses were required. (The Federal Government could support a peacetime strength of only 42 mounts.) The cost of the extra horses, additional care and facilities for them, and special uniforms and equipment was assured by a public-spirited group of citizens who, incorporating themselves as the non-profit "Chicago Black Horse Troop Association," undertook the raising of \$100,000.00 to cover the initial outlay, plus an additional \$9,000.00 annually. During the depression, members of the troop and band turned over their drill pay to maintain their organization.

The Black Horse Troop and the Mounted Band played conspicuous parts in all Chicago ceremonies for some ten years. The troop was redesignated Troop "E" in 1935, and Troop "A" in 1940. In November 1940 it was inducted into Federal Service; in 1942, it was mechanized, serving in the southwest Pacific as the 33rd Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop. Inactivated at Camp Shanks, New York, in October 1945, the troop was reorganized and Federally recognized as the 33rd Mechanized Cavalry Reconnaissance

Troop (Black Horse Troop) in April 1947. The ROCID reorganization transformed it into the 33rd Aviation Company, 33rd Infantry Division, as of 1 March 1959.

The distinctive uniform of the Black Horse Troop was the result of a series of compromises within a large committee appointed for the purpose. Company member Mr. Hugh Charles McBarron, Jr., worked out several designs for the committee before it finally settled on the one shown here. Our plate is based on Mr. McBarron's original designs and photographs purchased from the Chicago Historical Society. The tall plume on the captain's shako seems to have been an addition to the original uniform design, according to which the officers' epaulettes were to be their sole distinction of rank. At any rate, it flaunts impressively in a 1932 photograph. Various differences also appear in the cut and decoration of the schabraque: the original design and a 1940 photograph of a painting (date unknown) show the style depicted here; a 1932 photograph shows a skimpier version, without the medallion in the lower rear corner. Likewise, white gauntlets, such as the captain wears here, appear occasionally.

In this, there exists a definite warning. Only some eighteen years ago, the Black Horse Troop dismounted for the last time—but, today, it is far easier to secure the details of the average Napoleonic uniform than it was to locate those necessary for this plate. The Adjutant General's Office, Illinois National Guard, was very helpful, but had little information on uniforms. The Chicago Historical Society had little more—and charged a stiff price for that. Information concerning the few non-regulation pre-World War II uniforms of the National Guard will have to be collected as soon and as carefully as possible.

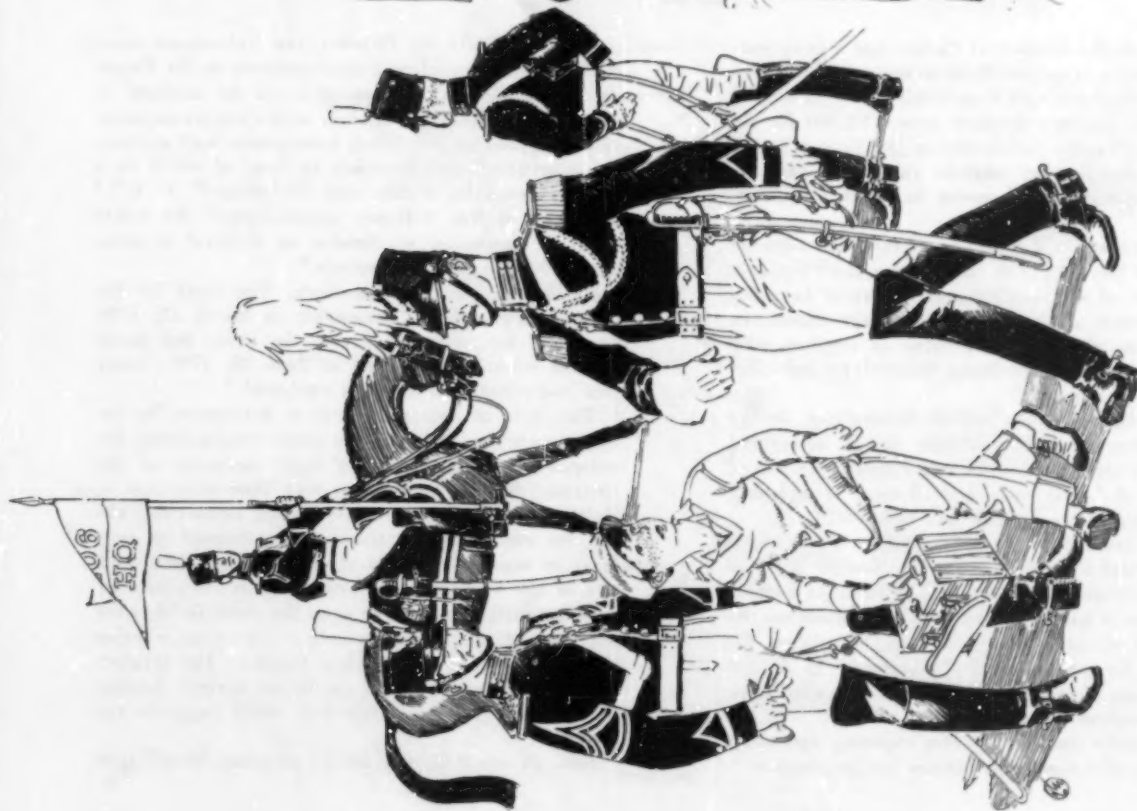
Frederick T. Chapman
John R. Elting

Hessen-Kassel Fusilier Regt. (1780 Musketeer Regt.) Erbprinz

Plate No. 174

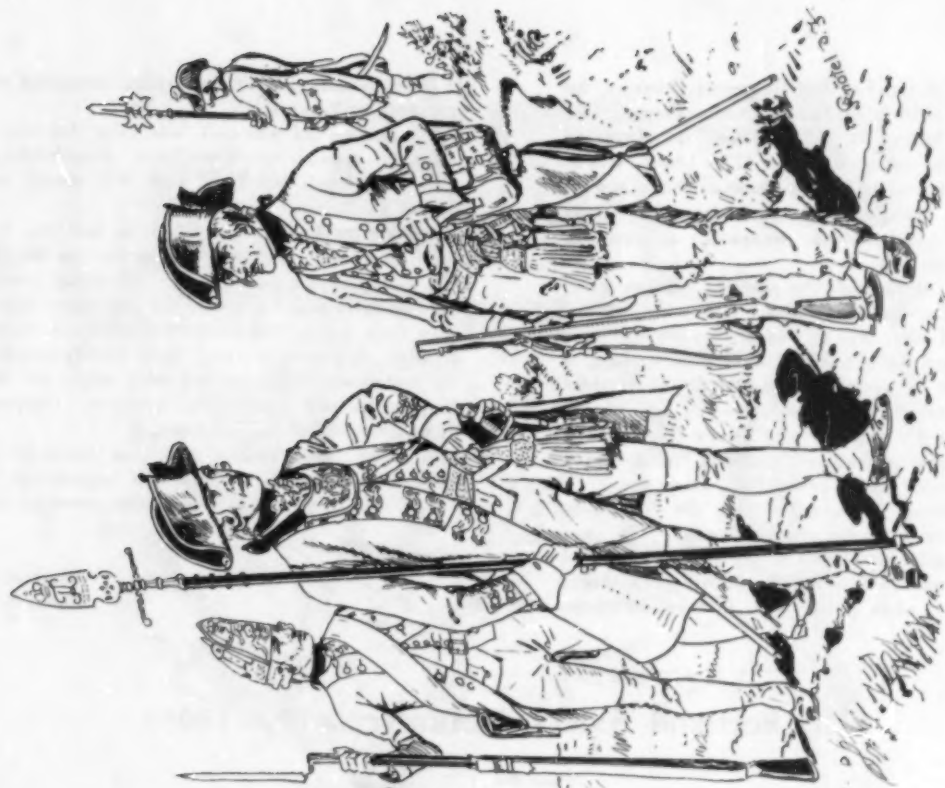
The Landgraves of Hessen-Kassel (Hesse-Cassel) had one principal cash crop for export—men. They sold their subjects indifferently to any state that needed mercenaries. Of course, it must be admitted that they labored mightily to provide replacements for the men shipped overseas. Frederick II, Land-

grave at the time of the American Revolution, was himself the proud father of over one hundred children. With so many babies requiring new shoes, he was more than happy to provide cannon fodder for the suppression of an obscure revolt in distant North America—at a high price, of course.



Headquarters Troop, 186th Cavalry

The Chicago Black Horse Troop, 1929-1940



Fusilier 1773

Officer 1773

Officer 1780

Corporal 1780

Hessen-Kassel Fusilier Regt. (1780 Musketeer Regt.) Erbprinz

In the case of the Fusilier Regiment Erbprinz, he seems to have sold fairly honest goods. This was an old regiment, formed in 1680, though its elevation to fusilier status dated only from 1775. (Said "elevation" amounted to little more than an exchange of headgear, the fusilier cap replacing the three-cornered hat. Organization, weapons, and tactics remained the same.)

Tracing the service of the various German units during the American Revolution is a complicated task. Many of the British "states" identify them only by their colonels' names; these names changed frequently and were often misspelled. Also, their regimental titles are often Anglicized or Gallicized. *Erbprinz* frequently appears as "Prince Hereditaire", and is occasionally confused with the Hesse-Hanau Regiment *Erbprinz*, which served with Burgoyne.

Erbprinz arrived in America with the first contingent of German troops on 12 August 1776, and was subsequently involved in the fighting around New York. It remained in the New York area thereafter until 1781, when it was sent to Virginia where

it later became part of Cornwallis' command and was captured at Yorktown.

Its authorized strength was 660, but its actual strength appears to have been considerably less. For example, it left New York 502 strong, and had 454 at Yorktown.

Soon after *Erbprinz*'s arrival in America, its officers followed the common practice in the British Army—a practice sparked by American terrain and shrapshooters—and removed the expensive embroidery from their coats. Many armed themselves with fusils (though this practice was later widely condemned), the spontoon being carried only while in garrison. Sergeants and corporals, however, retained the "Kurzgewehr" for field service.

In 1780, the fusilier cap was replaced by the cocked hat, while the rose-red regimental facings reverted to the "carmoisins-red" worn previous to 1775.

Herbert Knotel
John R. Elting

The Portland Federal Volunteers, 1798-1803

Plate No. 175

Portland, in the District of Maine, was a busy seaport, enjoying a large maritime commerce. The imminent prospect of war with France early in 1798 stirred it to activity. In June the town raised \$2,000 for the mounting of "cannon belonging to the United States and other cannon that may be in town," and appointed a committee of seven to erect necessary defenses.¹

Preparation at the Federal level included passage of an Act of May 28, 1798, authorizing the President in the event of war or imminent danger of invasion to raise a force of 10,000, and to accept companies of volunteers of infantry, cavalry or artillery who should arm, clothe and equip themselves and offer themselves for service.²

Maritime Portland was full of Federalists. In the Captain Amos Stoddard, of the newly authorized Second Regiment Artillerists and Engineers,³ raised a company of "stout, able bodied men," completely uniformed and with a drummer and fifer.⁴

Patriotic and military fervor led to the organization of the Portland Federal Volunteers. Joseph C. Boyd and sixty-five others entered into articles of association to form a military company to be known as the "Portland Federal Volunteers," on September 10, 1798. The Company agreed "voluntarily to defend the just cause of their country whenever called upon by the President" under the Act of May, 1798. It agreed to clothe itself at its own expense, agreeable to the report of a committee chosen for the purpose.⁵

By the middle of October the volunteers were ready to go. They offered their services to the President, and included a description of the uniform "a short red coat faced with blue, with white kerseymere vest and pantaloons, black kerseymere half gaiters, a cap trimmed with bearskin in front of which is a plate representing a star, with the letters P. F. V."⁶ Secretary of War McHenry acknowledged the letter Nov. 6, enclosing a circular of Federal requirements,⁷ and blank commissions.⁸

Uniforming was not immediate. The cloth for the coats was bought in December; on March 12, 1799 the order for caps was given, the vests and pants ordered made. At the drill of June 25, 1799, every man was present, completely equipped.⁹

The style of cap is difficult to determine. No example survives, nor has any other contemporary description been found. The light company of the British 7th Royal Fusiliers was then stationed at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and its "black helmet-cap has the fur crest running transversely instead of from front to rear." The front plate rather requires such use of the bearskin. Whether the plate was located upon an upright frontlet or upon the skull is likewise not clear. Capt. C. H. Lawson is uncertain whether the 7th Foot cap had such a frontlet. The relative ease of forming the plate to fit an upright frontlet over forming it to the spherical skull suggests the former.¹⁰

June 25 was a big day for the company. Miss Zilpah



The Portland Federal Volunteers, 1798-1803

Fourth Battalion of Virginia Volunteers, Petersburg, Va. 1861

City Guard
SergeantCity Guard
CaptainPetersburg Greys
Co. B. Pri.Petersburg
Riflemen Pri.Petersburg Greys
Co. A. Corporal

Ensign

Private

Captain

Wadsworth, on behalf of the young ladies of Portland, presented it a standard, a ceremony occupying much the same position in the life of a newly organized Company that a house-raising occupied in the life of a new settler. Miss Wadsworth was important at the time as the daughter of Major General Peleg Wadsworth of the Massachusetts militia, to win local fame for his escape from the British when captured during the War of 1812. Today she may be more familiar as the mother of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The speeches, by Miss Zilpah in presentation and by Ensign Richard Wiggins in response, are framed on the walls of the Longfellow House in Portland now for the curious to see.¹¹

On one side the standard displayed the arms of the United States; on the other, "with equal skill and superior design," (make what you can out of this language by the company clerk) "the arms of the United States and those of Massachusetts united. 'Presented to the Federal Volunteers' is inscribed in a wreath of flowers. The motto is "Defend the Laws." "¹²

The company took its drill, its equipment, and its patriotic obligations seriously. In the fall of 1799 they had knapsacks and canteens to go with their short red coats and white pantaloons.¹³ They paraded for Washington's Portland funeral ceremony October 19, 1799, and again January 7, 1800 with the regular garrison from Fort Scammon.¹⁴ They were active in the Fourth of July celebrations, bearing the brunt of the military duties of the day despite the presence of a numerous militia and a smaller Regular force from the Portland harbor defenses.¹⁵

The Portland Federal Volunteers reassociated themselves in September 1800, when their original agreement expired, and again in 1802, when despite

the disappearance of the threat of war with France, they still numbered fifty-nine.¹⁶ On each occasion they tendered their services to the President, but in both 1800 and 1802 also wrote the Governor of Massachusetts for recognition as an independent company.¹⁷

By 1803 it was clear that the Act of May 28, 1798 was an entirely insufficient basis for a permanent military organization. Continued existence must be as an independent state militia company. On June 6, 1803, it secured a charter from Massachusetts. The company, with much the same personnel, became the Portland Light Infantry, a militia company still in existence as Headquarters Battery, 240th Artillery Group, (air Defense) Maine National Guard.¹⁸

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.
Frank E. Southard

1. *The Eastern Herald and Gazette of Maine*, June 18, 1798.
2. Upton, Bvt. Maj. Gen. Emory, "The Military Policy of the United States," Washington, G.P.O., 1917, p. 87.
3. Heitman, Francis B., "Historical Dictionary and Register of the United States Army," Washington, 1903, p. 87.
4. *Portland Gazette*, Oct. 1, 1798, Oct. 29, 1798.
5. Original Record Book of the Company, in the custody of the Maine Historical Society, Portland, Maine.
6. Original Record Book.
7. Original Record Book.
8. *The Gazette* (Portland, Maine) Nov. 12, 1798.
9. Original Record Book.
10. Carmen, W. Y., "British Military Uniforms from Contemporary Pictures," London, 1957, p. 99; letter from Capt. C. H. Lawson to H. Charles McBarron, dated 4 August, 1959.
11. Original Record Book; *Transcript*, (Portland, Maine) March 19, 1900.
12. Original Record Book.
13. Original Record Book.
14. Original Record Book.
15. *Jenks' Portland Gazette*, July 7, 1800.
16. Original Record Book.
17. Original Record Book.
18. Brochure, "Portland Light Infantry" etc.; *Eastern Argus* (Portland, Maine) June 8, 1891; *Transcript*, (Portland, Maine) March 19, 1890; G. O. 17, AGO Me., dated 25 June 1959.

Fourth Battalion of Virginia Volunteers, Petersburg, Va. 1861

Plate No. 176

Organization of the Fourth Battalion of Virginia Volunteers was completed in early January 1861 with the election of its commander, Major David A. Weisiger.¹ The battalion was comprised of the following Volunteer companies drawn from Petersburg's 39th Regiment, Va. Militia: the Petersburg Greys, Co. A (organized 1828); Petersburg Greys, Co. B (organized 1859); Petersburg Artillery (organized 1843); City Guard (organized 1852); Petersburg Riflemen (organized 1859); and the Lafayette Guard (organized 1860). On 16 January 1861, the *Petersburg Daily Express* declared:

THE FOURTH BATTALION. — This handsome battalion will have a dress parade and drill at an early day, when it is expected that every company will be fully prepared. — Now that it is thoroughly

organized, it should be maintained with spirit by every individual member, and we hope not long hence to see it grow into the dimensions of a regiment. Petersburg should hasten to claim the honor of containing the Second Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, and to emulate Richmond, both, in numbers and enthusiasm of her gallant First. The "Cockade" is the second city in the State, and should seize the laurels that are before her while they are yet fresh and inviting.²

In observance of Washington's birthday anniversary, 22 February 1861, the companies of the Fourth Battalion, less the two companies of Greys, united with the Petersburg Light Dragoons, and the Chesterfield Light Dragoons, from nearby Chesterfield County, in forming a parade, which, according to the Petersburg correspondent of the *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, made

an imposing display."³ Parades in Petersburg customarily took place at Poplar Lawn, and down Sycamore Street, the main thoroughfare.⁴ Aside from battalion functions, the companies held their own meetings and drills.

A battalion parade was scheduled to be held at Poplar Lawn on 20 April 1861; however, on that date the battalion was destined to assemble for more significant reasons than a mere review.⁵ The Convention, meeting in Richmond, on 17 April passed an ordinance of secession, and authorized the Governor to "call into the service of the State as many volunteers as may be necessary to repel invasion and protect the citizens of the State in the present emergency." On 19 April, Major Weisiger was ordered to hold his command in readiness to move at a moment's notice. The next day, 20 April, the Fourth Battalion, numbering over 400 men, was called out, and at about 2:00 P.M. left Petersburg by train for Norfolk, where they arrived about dark. In May 1861, the battalion, less the Petersburg Artillery, and other companies from southeastern Virginia, were organized into the 12th Regiment of Virginia Volunteers under Colonel Weisiger.⁶

The plate depicts members of the City Guard, the Petersburg Riflemen, and the two companies of Greys, just after a parade in Petersburg, before the Fourth Battalion's departure for Norfolk in April 1861. Uniform details are based on contemporary photographs and newspaper accounts. Beyond the fact that the Petersburg Artillery in February 1861 was sorely in need of new uniforms, nothing is known about their dress.⁷ The Lafayette Guard was uniformed in February 1861, but we have no further information.⁸

The corporal of the Petersburg Greys, Co. A, is shown wearing the gray coat adopted by the company in April 1858, which, with modifications in button arrangement, sword flaps, and skirt and sleeve ornamentation, was almost the same as had been previously worn by the company. The uniform was described as being similar to that worn by the National Guard of New York.⁹

When the "B" Greys were organized in November 1859, they adopted a uniform consisting of gray pants and frock coats, which were to be trimmed in light blue as prescribed by militia uniform regulations.¹⁰ The new company of Greys was described as being dressed similar to the old Greys, "... save they will wear a frock coat."¹¹

The uniform of the Petersburg Riflemen consisted of a dark blue frock coat and trousers, trimmed in gold, and green worsted epaulette.¹² Blue cloth fatigue caps, which had a brass wreath with the letters "P. R." inside, were procured by the Company along with their uniforms in January 1860.¹³ A photograph of the Riflemen, presumably taken on 22 February 1861, shows the company wearing the same type of caps and pompons as were worn by the City Guard.¹⁴ Other details of the Riflemen's dress were taken from a daguerreotype of a company member

made in 1861,¹⁵ and the cover illustration to the "Riflemen's Grand March."¹⁶ The company purchased Enfield rifles in 1861.¹⁷

The captain and sergeant of the City Guard wear the uniform adopted by the company soon after their return from Charlestown in November 1859. The *Petersburg Press* on 26 November 1859, announced that the proposed uniform would consist of a "plain blue frock coat and white cross belts." The trousers were of the same dark blue cloth as the coat, with a light blue stripe down the outer seams. The uniform of the City Guard closely followed the dress prescribed for the infantry militia and Volunteer corps in the 1858 *Militia Law of Virginia*.¹⁸ Other details of the Guards' dress are from a photograph of the company taken at Poplar Lawn on 22 February 1861,¹⁹ and a portrait of Captain John P. May on the cover to "The City Guard Quick Step."²⁰

John P. Severin
Lee A. Wallace, Jr.

1. *Petersburg Daily Express*, 7 January 1861, David Adams Weisiger, who had served as adjutant of the Virginia Regiment of Volunteers raised for the Mexican War, was elected colonel of the 39th Regiment, Va. Militia in May 1853, and was serving in that capacity when elected to command the Volunteer Battalion, see biographical sketch of Weisiger, in Clement A. Evans, ed., *Confederate Military History*, III, pp. 682-684.
2. *Petersburg Daily Express*, 16 January 1861. The First Regiment of Virginia Volunteers was organized in Richmond on 1 May 1851. The "Cockade" as cited by the *Express*, is an abbreviation of "Cockade City of the Union," which was the name President Madison dubbed the city in 1813, when he reviewed the Petersburg Volunteers on their trip homeward after winning distinction in the siege and battle of Fort Mifflin.
3. *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, 25 February 1861.
4. Poplar Lawn, which is still maintained as a city park, is now seldom used for civic or military functions. Once again, on 9 May 1959, the Lawn echoed with the shrill sounds of fifes, and the beating of drums, when 37 companies of the North-South Skirmish Association assembled there for a parade down Sycamore Street. The occasion was the 19th Semi-Annual North-South Skirmish held that weekend at nearby Fort Lee.
5. *Petersburg Daily Express*, 17 April 1861.
6. *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, 23 April 1861; John Herbert Claiborne, *Seventy-Five Years in Old Virginia*, Washington, 1904, pp. 190-195.
7. *Petersburg Daily Express*, 16 February 1861.
8. *Richmond Daily Dispatch*, 25 February 1861.
9. *Petersburg Daily Express*, 22 April 1858.
10. *Petersburg Daily Express*, 23 November 1859; *Petersburg, Va., The Press*, 1 December 1859.
11. *Petersburg Daily Express*, 23 November 1859.
12. *The Press*, 16 April 1860.
13. *The Press*, 7 January 1860; *ibid.*, 21 February 1860.
14. Centre Hill Mansion Museum collection, Petersburg, Va.
15. Daguerreotype of Pvt. Robert S. Peebles, Petersburg Riflemen, Virginia Room, Confederate Museum, Richmond, Va.
16. "Riflemen's Grand March, composed and dedicated to the Petersburg Riflemen," by Charles L. Peticolas, 1861, in the collection of the Confederate Museum, Richmond, Va.
17. Muster Roll, Co. E (Petersburg Riflemen), 12th Regiment of Va. Vols., dated 3 July 1861, Record Group No. 109, National Archives.
18. *The Militia Law of Virginia*, published pursuant to Act of 2 March 1858, Richmond, Va., printed by Ritchie and Dunnivant, 1858.
19. Centre Hill Mansion Museum collection, Petersburg, Va.
20. "The City Guard Quick Step, Composed & Respectfully Dedicated to the Petersburg City Guard [and] Capt. John P. May," by Eliodoro Camps, Petersburg, Va., J. A. Barker, 1861; copy in Library of Congress collection.

COLLECTOR'S FIELD BOOK

"NONE BUT SOBER MEN WITH DRY SPONGES"

The following notes by Captain Huger¹ may seem quite contradictory to the currently accepted opinion as to how muzzle-loading artillery should be sponged, but they ably reveal that lavish use of water is no substitute for thorough care in this hazardous business.

ORDNANCE BOARD, March 2d, 1841

The accidental explosions of cannon, by which many lives and limbs are lost annually, are generally caused by fragments of the burning cartridge from a previous discharge remaining in the gun, and which are not extinguished before the next charge is inserted.

By observing the following directions, most of these accidents may be prevented.

1st. The powder should be contained in a cartridge bag, made of worsted stuff or serge; the material should be entirely of wool, of a close texture, and the bag should be sewed with woollen yarn.

2d. The sponge should be made of woollen fringe, or sheep skin, with the wool outward, and it should fit the gun snugly, and fill the bore.

3d. The finger stall is made of buckskin, or other soft leather, with a cushion stuffed with hair.

The vent (touch hole) should be stopped, by forcibly pressing this cushion upon it while the gun is being sponged and loaded. After the gun has been fired, it must be carefully sponged, to extinguish any burning remains of the cartridge. If this is carefully done with a dry sponge, it is certain to extinguish any pieces of burning flannel. The sponge should be forced down firmly against the bottom of the bore, and in this position it should be turned round two or three times in each direction. Care should be taken not to use a wet sponge. If it be slightly damped it may do no harm, but it is far safer to use the sponge dry than when it contains water, for the water is squeezed out and remains at the bottom of the bore. On inserting the next cartridge, its lower end gets thoroughly soaked, and the wet powder does not burn on discharging the piece, but is driven into the pores of the woollen stuff, and forms a kind of match, which not only retains fire, but is with difficulty extinguished with the sponge; whereas, a dry piece of burning woollen is easily extinguished. The free use of water in sponging is the frequent cause of accidental explosions.

If the piece flash, or the priming tube blows, it should be approached carefully. The person who reprimed it should approach in front of the axletree, to avoid being injured by the recoil, in case the piece goes off from fire remaining in the vent.

None but careful, sober men, and well instructed should be allowed to sponge a gun or serve the vent.

The foregoing instructions have been prepared in obedience to the directions of the Secretary of War of this date, are respectfully submitted for his sanction.

BEN J. HUGER
Captain and Secretary

Approved:
J. R. POINSETT²

Perhaps it is also well to present here that the practice in the United States Navy was to use a moistened sponge as may be ascertained from the following naval sources:

In serving the howitzer, the practice here has always been to moisten the sponge, and though it differs from that common in the land service, there seems to be much to recommend it; especially in this, that the least trace of fire must be extinguished.

In the course of three years' operation with these howitzers in every variety of rapid and slow firing, no accident has yet occurred from premature explosion.³

257. It has been the uniform practice at the Experimental Battery at the Ordnance Yard, Washington, and also on board the Gunner Ship *Plymouth*, in 1857-'58, to use a moist sponge; and as no accident from premature explosion has taken place in either case, the inference is that the method is a safe one, and might obviate other precautions, especially where reloading is necessary, as in firing salutes, when, there being no shot over the cartridge, it is imperfectly consumed.

258. "Strikes the staff several smart taps under the muzzle!" to shake off any adhering fragments of the cartridge. Should any burning fragments be drawn out, the Loader extinguishes them with the wet swab; the Gun Captain again commands "Sponge."⁴

Present day North-South Skirmish Ass'n cannoners are required to adhere to this latter practice. Should other modern gun crews desire to use dry sponges they should take the precaution of making them extremely well fitted to the bore.

J. Duncan Campbell
Robert L. Miller

¹ Benjamin Huger (1806-1877) was a member of the Ordnance Board for seven years, and in the Mexican War, was chief of ordnance on the staff of General Scott. After the war, Huger was a member of a board which prepared a system of artillery instruction for the army. In 1861, he resigned from the army as major of ordnance. In the service of the Confederacy, Huger attained the rank of major general and was appointed inspector of artillery and ordnance. In 1863 he was named chief of ordnance of the Trans-Mississippi Department.

² Huger's letter to Poinsett appeared in the *New York Military Magazine*, 1, No. 3 (26 June 1841), p. 47.

³ J. A. Dahlgren, *System of Boat Armament in the United States Navy*, Philadelphia, 1852, p. 108.

⁴ *Ordnance Instructions for the United States Navy*, Washington, 1866, p. 74.

CIVIL WAR ARMOR: A CAMPSITE RECOVERY

The fact that Civil War armor existed in the form of bullet proof vests has formerly been well re-



Photograph by Milton Ford

ported in this journal,¹ but we have in this instance a chance recovery from a Civil war campsite. It can be well determined that the area this writer "worked" was occupied by the Second Division, Second Army Corps from November 1862 to June 1863, as it is in proper proximity to Falmouth, Virginia.

A curious circumstance is that this very desirable relic was found in the spring of 1959 leaning against a tree where it had obviously been discarded as worthless by some other relic hunter. He is doubtless destined to feel the pangs of regret as the relatively unpublicized use of armor in the Civil War becomes more widely known.

The steel plate is quite well preserved but the thin metal strap that supports the plate from the shoulder has been destroyed by corrosion. Of course nothing remains of the cloth covering, but one can not but help conjecture if the missing mate to the plate may yet lie buried in the area; I surely looked for it.

Roger S. Cohen, Jr.

¹ Harold L. Peterson, "Body Armor in the American Civil War," *MC&H*, IV, pp. 29-33; Waverly P. Lewis, "The Soldiers' Bullet Proof Vest," *MC&H*, VIII, pp. 81-82.



Photographs by the author

SILVER MOUNTED SWORD BY THE KENTUCKY RIFLE MAKER JOHN NOLL

John Noll, who worked in what is now Franklin County, Pennsylvania, was one of the finest rifle makers in the state in the years just before and after 1800. Well made rifles with relief carving and engraved brass mounts that bear his name have long been known by collectors. It was not known, however, that he also made or at least mounted swords. This fact also is now established through a sword recently acquired by the writer.

The sword itself would be of considerable interest even without the Noll association because of its unusual construction. The pommel, of the typical Philadelphia eagle head form, is carved from mahogany instead of being made of metal, and it appears to have been gilded. The grips are carved from mahogany also in a spiral pattern. The two ferrules and the knuckle-bow are of silver. The blade, of the short saber pattern, is unmarked and simple. It may have been made by Noll, but it is the silver guard which bears Noll's stamp on the grips side of the quillon. This mark, a cartouche with serrated edges bearing the letters I N (the N being reversed), is the one usually found stamped



in an oval silver inlay on Noll rifle barrels. On his rifles, Noll usually went one step further and engraved his name as well, but such is not the case on this sword. There is one name engraved on the knuckle-bow of the sword, however, and that is "Col. John Hay." Hay served as a major in the Pennsylvania militia 1777-1778 and attained the rank of colonel in the state organization sometime thereafter. Hay's descendants still live in York, Pennsylvania, and it was in that city that the sword was acquired.

Illustrated from the author's collection, are two views of John Noll's super artistry in rifle making. Three views of the sword described above and a superimposed view of Noll's mark on the quillon of the sword and the barrel of the rifle.

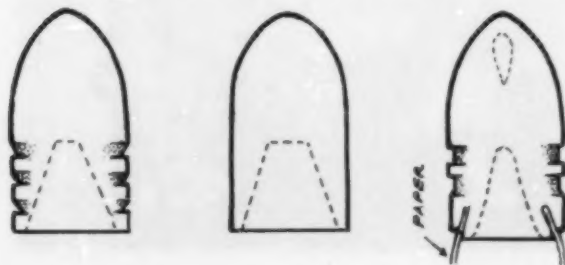
Wes White

SACKCLOTH, ASHES AND A NEW DEVELOPMENT

Reference is made to my article in the Fall 1955 (Volume VII, Number 3) issue of the *MC&H* entitled "Common Infantry Small Arms Projectiles of the Civil War."

I find that I was in error as to the Confederate inserted paper cartridges, known variously as the "Fowler" or "Gardner," being of a compound nature or having a separate expansion cup. Member B. R. Lewis¹ emerges victorious in this regard. As a consequence all references therein to "compound bullets" should be changed to read "incised base bullets;" a corrected sketch is shown.

However, as a result of recent sectioning of a number of bullets of this provenance, as well as the recovery from a battlefield of a contemporary sectioned bullet, an extremely interesting new fact has emerged. Every one of these bullets (they were swedged) has a vertical cavity, approximately in the ballistic center of the bullet! These cavities are approximately 12mm high and 4mm wide. A sufficient number of bullets from different areas and



chronological scope have been sacrificed to make certain that that this cavity was not an accidental air pocket—it is not and was definitely placed there with intent. I can only draw one conclusion: that it is a hidden expansion cavity, intended to give the soft lead projectile a "hollow point" mushrooming effect upon impact. This may account for the many contemporary accounts of "horrible wounds inflicted by Rebel explosive balls." While a very few truly explosive bullets were employed by both combatants, they were in very limited use and could not possibly account for the manifold reference to such projectiles.

Sydney C. Kerksis

¹ B. R. Lewis, *Small Arms & Ammunition in the United States Service*, Washington, 1956, pp. 191-192.

SYLVANUS THAYER LIBRARY, DARTMOUTH

A search for George Brinton McClellan's bayonet manual¹ led me to the library of the Thayer School of Engineering, Dartmouth College. The existence of that collection had thereto been unknown to me in spite of years of research in the College's excellent Baker Library.²

General Thayer, the celebrated Superintendent and "Father" of the U.S. Military Academy, graduated from Dartmouth in 1807. Thereafter he attended West Point and was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers. Following his retirement from the army, he gave \$30,000 to establish his first alma mater's Engineering School in 1867. He founded its library with a gift of books on military and engineering subjects.

Many of the volumes were assembled by Thayer during his two-year detail to Europe in 1815 for study in military schools and to observe foreign armies and fortifications. They comprise works of military history, biography, and law; tactics and construction of defenses; a number of maps regarded as rarities as are other items. In English, French, German, and Italian, the books date from

the 18th Century on. Besides the collection's catalogue, titles are listed in the General's own hand on a manuscript in the Archives, Baker Library.

Fairfax Downey

¹ *Manual of Bayonet Exercise*. Philadelphia: Grambo & Co., 1852. Translated from the French of "an eminent teacher of the art of fencing."

² It is COMPANY policy to notify members of useful military collections that might otherwise escape notice.—*Editor*

SUSSEX LIGHT DRAGOONS, VIRGINIA STATE CAVALRY, 1861

The accompanying photograph of members of the Sussex Light Dragoons is a splendid example of the varied dress worn by Virginia troops in the early part of 1861.¹ The dark blue trousers and loose cloth caps were not uncommonly seen among State troops at this time. Gray shirts appear in a number of early wartime portraits of Virginia cavalrymen, but the style worn by the Sussex Light Dragoons is unique in its front and button arrangement.

The Sussex Light Dragoons, under Captain Benjamin Belsches, was organized in Sussex County, Va., January 1861.² Presumably following their organization, the company became a part of the 1st

Regiment of Cavalry, Virginia Militia. On 24 April 1861, at Suffolk, Va., the Dragoons were mustered into State service for a period of twelve months. About July 1861, they were assigned to the 5th Regiment of Virginia Cavalry as Co. C. The 5th Regiment, composed of companies enrolled for 12 months service, was dissolved in June 1862,³ and the Sussex Light Dragoons was ordered to join other companies in constituting the 16th Battalion Virginia Cavalry under Major Belsches. Later, another company was added to the battalion, and on 29 July 1862, its designation was changed to the 13th Regiment Virginia Cavalry. The Sussex Light Dragoons served with this command as Co. H until the end of the war.⁴

Lee A. Wallace, Jr.

¹ Made available through courtesy of the Confederate Museum, Richmond, Va. *MUIA* Plate No. 99, "Sussex Light Dragoons, Virginia State Cavalry, 1861," was based on this photograph.

² William N. Blow, "The Sussex Light Dragoons," *Southern Historical Society Papers*, XXV (January-December, 1897), p. 274.

³ In June 1862 another 5th Regiment Virginia Cavalry, under Colonel Thomas L. Rosser, was formed; *Official Records, Armies*, ser. I, vol. LI, part 2, pp. 579-580.

⁴ Lists of Military Organizations Carded by the Record and Pension Office (Ainsworth List), Office of the Adjutant General, Record Group No. 94, Box 124, National Archives.



GAZETTE



Marcel Gayda
Paris, France

Lieutenant Colonel George F. Havell, USAR
Fayetteville, New York

MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors considered at its Spring Meeting at Quantico several matters of general interest to the membership.

The 1961 COMPANY meeting will be held at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania and steps are being taken to lay the groundwork for this meeting. Boston has been suggested as the locality for the 1962 meeting.

In order that new members could immediately start receiving the Journal and Plates, the Board of Governors passed a resolution that subscriptions should commence with the issues current at the time of the member being accepted into THE COMPANY. The By-Laws required this to be submitted to the membership for ratification. (This change has been confirmed by the recent vote circulated among the membership.)

Due in particular to the activity of Administrator Ogden McCagg, THE COMPANY is on a sounder financial basis than it has ever been. The tireless activity of the Administrator was hailed by both the Finance Committee and the Board of Governors.

This meeting saw the retirement of Captain Harrison K. Bird, Jr. as President of THE COMPANY and the Board of Governors expressed its sincere appreciation of his services during his term of office.

The new Fellowship Committee, recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Governors, is comprised of the following: Henry I. Shaw, Jr., Chairman, Lee A. Wallace, Jr., Ernest W. Peterkin, regular members; Hermann W. Williams, Jr., and Francis A. Lord, alternates.

CHANGES IN MC&H STAFF

Because of business pressures, which involve frequent travel, Major Joe F. Petit has relinquished his position as Managing Editor of the MC&H. However, Joe's abilities will not be entirely lost to the Journal, for he has agreed to remain with us as an Assistant Editor. At the request of the Editor in Chief, the Board of Governors has selected Lee A. Wallace, Jr. as the new Managing Editor.

Upon the recommendation of the Associate Editors, the Editor in Chief has appointed James F. Harding as an Assistant Art Editor of the MC&H.

NEW FELLOWS

The Board of Governors, acting on the recommendation of the Fellowship Committee, is pleased to announce the approval and appointment of the following members to the honor of Fellow of the COMPANY OF MILITARY COLLECTORS & HISTORIANS:

John Bakeless—Writer and Editor. Colonel USAR, Ret. For his many excellent books and articles in the field of military history and especially for his outstanding studies of Daniel Boone, Lewis and Clark, George Rogers Clark, and the espionage of the American Revolution.

John R. Cuneo—Lawyer. Governor and Secretary of THE COMPANY. For his definitive books on aviation in World War I; for his COMPANY sponsored biography of Major Robert Rogers; and for his numerous magazine articles on military history.

Bruce Lancaster—Writer. For his efforts to publicize and broaden the understanding of American military tradition through his many fine historical novels and through his books on history designed for young people as well as through historical studies such as *From Lexington to Liberty*.

Donald L. Dickson—Publisher of *Leatherneck* magazine. Colonel USMCR. For his contributions to the field of military art through his outstanding World War II combat sketches and paintings and a wide range of military illustration; for his unstinted support of activities strengthening respect for military tradition through *Leatherneck*; for his assistance to COMPANY publications.

Edward J. Stackpole—Publisher. Lieutenant General, Pennsylvania National Guard, Ret. For his work in establishing a publishing house dedi-

cated to military subjects, making available basic textbooks and manuals for soldiers as well as historical studies of arms and other military subjects; for his own publications on Civil War battles and campaigns in the East.

Hugh F. Rankin—Historian. Authority on the Revolutionary War, especially the Southern campaigns, and Nathanael Greene. For his book (with George F. Scheer), *Rebels and Redcoats: The Living Story of the American Revolution*; and for his published studies on the battles of Moore's Creek and Cowpens.

John H. C. Pell—Business Executive. For his work as managing director of the Fort Ticonderoga Association through which he has done much to increase the understanding and appreciation of American military tradition; for his assiduous collection of manuscript materials of the French and Indian War and the Revolution; for his articles and publications in the field.

Norman R. Belmont-Maitland—Businessman and publisher. For his service to collectors in publishing at reasonable prices authoritative uniform plate series on British and Continental armies based upon his own research; for his extensive uniform research and guidance in the development of a truly outstanding range of military miniatures.

Harrison Kerr Bird, Jr.—Business Executive. Charter Member. Governor and Past President, 1957-1960. For his many contributions to the field of military history through his articles in the *Bulletin* of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum and *MC&H*; for his long and unstinting service to THE COMPANY; and for his readiness at all times to assist a fellow student.

Joseph R. Mayer—Physician. For his pioneering work in the study of American colonial weapons; for his published monographs such as *Flintlocks of the Iroquois*; and for his many notable articles in the field.

Edward Olsen—Artist. For his leadership in fostering the revival of early American military music; for his organization of the annual Deep River Muster of Ancient Corps, the major event for perpetuating ancient fife and drum music; and for his editorship of *The Corpsman*, journal of the ancient corps.

Marshall Andrews—Military Writer. Operations Analyst. For his penetrating analyses and evaluations of military matters which have been published for more than twenty years in various per-

iodicals; for his books *Our New Army* and *Disaster Through Air Power*.

Milton A. Caniff—Artist. For his dedication to accuracy both in detail and in spirit, which has made his cartoon strip *Steve Canyon* a graphic portrayal of the American airman while it has educated the public in the traditions of the United States Air Force; for his cartoon *Miss Lace* of World War II service publications which depicted the other services with a similar exactness; for his assistance to THE COMPANY; and for his personal devotion to the preservation of America's military traditions.

Frederick Ray—Artist. For his many picture books on the history of famous American forts which have helped to instill in young people a knowledge of and appreciation for these phases of American military history; and for his contributions to *Military Uniforms in America*.

Hugh Benet, Jr.—Business Executive. For his work in founding and editing *The American Arms Collector*, one of the finest American magazines in the weapons field.

William E. Codd—Businessman. For his work in creating and editing *The American Arms Collector*, one of the finest American magazines in the weapons field.

George F. Scheer—Journalist. Student of the American Revolution and 18th Century arms. For his book (with Hugh F. Rankin), *Rebels and Redcoats: The Living Story of the American Revolution*; and for his other published writings on military history.

1960 COMPANY MEETING

The Tenth annual meeting of THE COMPANY was held at the Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Virginia, 6-8 May 1960. One hundred and nineteen members with wives and guests, totaling in all about two hundred, attended. It was the largest meeting held thus far, and certainly one of the most successful. Harry Lee Hall served as headquarters for the meeting. Its spaciousness conveniently permitted virtually all of the indoor phases of the weekend program to be held under one roof, in addition to providing ample room for exhibits, the flea market, living quarters for some, and bar facilities for all. There were no conducted tours to nearby points of interest this year. However, the Marine Corps Museum was open for inspection by

COMPANY members Saturday and Sunday morning. Although, as announced, the exhibits were incomplete, members found their visits rewarding and were most grateful for this preview.

Registration began at noon Friday with quite a few early arrivals on hand aside from those attending the Board of Governors' Meeting. By six o'clock that evening a considerable force had arrived. The afternoon was largely spent in setting up exhibits, the flea market, and greeting arriving friends. Following a buffet dinner in the banquet hall members assembled in the Chinese Room to view a number of films produced and narrated by Colonel G. B. Jarrett. Of especial interest to many were the films on Civil War ordnance, and present day flying of World War I airplanes, which included Member Frank Tallman and his Sopwith Camel. Added to the evening's enjoyment were the sessions in Tun Tavern.

Saturday morning was spent by most members at Harry Lee Hall, attending discussion groups, two periods of which were held during the morning. Harry Wandrus, Curator and Fellow of THE COMPANY, led a discussion and exhibited various methods of preserving and restoring military artifacts. Rowland Gill, Assistant Editor for *MC&H's*

"Keeping Tradition Alive," displayed and discussed numerous items from his extensive collection of insignia of the present era. Civil War artillery ammunition was the topic of the group headed by COMPANY President Harold L. Peterson and Sydney Kerksis. Captain James C. Tily, Managing Associate Editor of *MUIA*, conducted a discussion group which aired the problems of uniform identification. Mendel L. Peterson, Head Curator of Armed Forces History, Smithsonian Institution, led a group in a discussion of underwater recovery and identification of objects raised from the sea. American Revolution "buffs" gathered to hear Henry I. Shaw, Jr., Editor in Chief and Fellow of THE COMPANY, reveal some of his findings on Loyalist military units.

Butler Stadium was the scene of the afternoon's program, which opened with a splendid performance by the Continental Boys Fife & Drum Corps of Arlington, Virginia. These teen-age musicians were organized in 1959 under the direction of Member George Carroll, a sergeant in the U.S. Army Band, and former bandsman in the Canadian Army and Navy. The Corps drilled, played, and demonstrated camp duty calls of the Revolutionary period.

Photograph by Bluford Muir





Leatherneck Photograph



Photograph by Bluford Muir



Photograph by Bluford Muir



Leatherneck Photograph

A firing demonstration of a Civil War Napoleon arranged and commanded by Member Foster Tallman noisily took next place in the show. Prior to the firing of the piece, Member Fairfax Downey, author of *Sound of the Guns* and *Guns at Gettysburg*, briefed spectators on the characteristics of the Napoleon and the duties of the cannoneers. Then followed an introduction by Colonel Downey of the gun crew, which, in addition to Tallman (Gunner), included: Dr. Robert MacLeod (No. 1), Lee Wallace (No. 2), Jim Harding (No. 3), Gordon Harrower (No. 4), Wendall Lang (No. 5), and Harold Peterson (No. 6). Awe inspiring, to say the least, was the marching onto the field, and the succeeding performances, of the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, Color Guard, and Drill Team. Following this unforgettable portion of the program, members and their guests departed for the Rifle and Pistol Range to witness a demonstration firing of Gatling and Lowell machine guns conducted by Member Harold Johnson.

On Saturday evening members assembled at Harry Lee Hall for a superb dinner in the banquet hall, which was bedecked for the occasion with various Marine Corps flags. Musicians of the Marine Corps Schools Band provided music throughout the dinner. Toasts were given to the President of the United States; to the hosts of the meeting, the Marine Corps Schools; to Harold L. Peterson, THE COMPANY's new President; and to Harrison K. Bird, Jr., the outgoing President. President Peterson announced the new Fellows of THE COMPANY and presented certificates to those

present. The "no speeches" tradition was maintained. Official guests for the dinner were: Lieutenant General Edward W. Snedeker, Commandant, Marine Corps Schools; Brigadier General William R. Collins, Director of the Development Center of the Marine Corps; and Colonel William M. Miller, Head, Historical Branch, G-3, Headquarters USMC. Following the banquet members adjourned to the exhibit room and to Tun Tavern.

Luckily, an indoor program was scheduled for Sunday. By noon it was pouring rain. After breakfast, members attended discussion groups. Miniature collectors assembled to hear Donald W. Holst, Smithsonian Institution model maker, discuss and illustrate his technique in creating plaster military miniatures. Uniforms and equipment of the Confederate States Marine Corps were discussed by a group led by Lee A. Wallace, Jr. Others heard C. Meade Patterson, Fellow of THE COMPANY and well known writer on arms subjects, discuss methods of identifying weapons frauds.

The success of the 1960 meeting reflected the hard work of our hosts at the Marine Corps Schools. To Lieutenant Colonel John H. Magruder III, USMCR, Chairman of the Meeting Committee; Colonel Donald L. Dickson, USMCR; Captain David E. Schwulst, USMCR; Warrant Officer Harold E. Johnson, USMC; Sergeant Peter A. Darrah, USMC; and to the others of the Marine Corps who assisted in the arrangements, THE COMPANY extends thanks for a most enjoyable weekend at Quantico.

Leatherneck Photograph



KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE



Delaware Army National Guard photograph

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CEREMONY

Until just recent years, Battery B, 4th Gun Battalion (90mm)/198th Artillery, Delaware Army National Guard, had a muster roll that read like the Irish army list. Even today, Irish names form a substantial part of its roster.

It started in 1858, when Thomas A. Smyth, a brook of a lad of 26, just four years off a boat from the old country, became first lieutenant of an all but defunct Wilmington volunteer company, and started enlisting his fellow countrymen by the dozens. Two years later he was captain of the outfit.

When President Lincoln called for volunteers, Smyth's company, which had meanwhile adopted the name "National Guards," was the first in the State to offer its services. But when the eager Irishmen saw that it would be all of a month before enough other companies could be enrolled to fill the ranks of Delaware's 90-day regiment, they impatiently marched off to Philadelphia to join the all-Irish 24th Pennsylvania, a 90-day outfit whose

organization was almost completed. After their muster-out as Company H of that regiment, they finally joined the 1st Delaware, then reorganizing as a three-year regiment following its own discharge from its initial three months' service. Smyth became major of the regiment, later its colonel, then a brigadier general of Volunteers at the age of 31. For a few months in 1864 he commanded Meagher's famous Irish Brigade and then temporarily led Gibbon's Division before returning to the brigade that included his own regiment. Meanwhile he had also become an ardent Fenian, and was being acclaimed by Irish soldiers throughout the Union Army as the man they would follow to the ultimate Irish victory over Britain, once the Rebs were taken care of.

In April 1865, however, Smyth was mortally wounded, and died on the day of the surrender at Appomattox, not yet 33 years old. His commission as brevet major general of Volunteers was on its way to him when he died. His body was returned to Wilmington, where it rests today in Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery.

Wilmington's Irish company continued after the war as Company F, 1st Delaware Infantry until World War I, and as Battery B, 198th Coast Artillery, was predominately Irish as late as 1940.

In recent years, to perpetuate the memory of the unit's Irish background and the man responsible for it, the unit commander, accompanied by a firing squad and bugler, has placed a bright green wreath on Smyth's grave on 17 March in observance of St. Patrick's Day.

Incidentally, all the Pennsylvania companies of the 24th Pennsylvania volunteered for three years' service with the 69th Pennsylvania, and served with it until the end of the war. The 69th was brigaded with the 1st Delaware for several campaigns, and served under Smyth both as a brigade commander and a division commander.

Donn Devine

USAF ADOPTION CEREMONIES

The 14th Fighter Group at Ethan Allen AFB, Vermont, officially adopted the 14th Cadet Squadron at The U.S. Air Force Academy with the presentation of a duplicate of the Group's Color and battle streamers, a plaque engraved with the Group's insignia commemorating the occasion, and an illustrated Group history.



Official USAF photograph

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Wilfred L. Goodson accepted the Colours and the other memorabilia from Colonel John R. Kullman, Group Commander, at ceremonies in the Academy's Arnold Hall this past November.

As is the custom among adopted cadet squadrons, their sponsor's colors will be carried beside the squadron guidon on ceremonial parade of the cadet wing, and they will wear the 14th's patch on their flying suits.

Further sponsorship of the squadron will include presentation of a photographic album depicting the Group's latest activation, a large model of the Convair F-102 (the aircraft presently used by the Group as an air defense unit) painted with the Group's insignia, and copies of the unit newspaper, the *Altimeter*.

The 14th was first activated at Hamilton Field, Calif., on 15 January 1941 and was then designated the 14th Pursuit Group (Fighter). During World War II the unit saw service in North Africa and Europe. For the past 16 years those assigned to the 14th have proudly worn the Distinguished Unit Citation, awarded for action against the enemy during an air strike over Austria on 2 April 1944. The 14th was inactivated in Italy in 1945. It was reactivated at Dow AFB, Maine, in 1946 only to be deactivated in 1949. It was recalled again in 1955 at Ethan Allen AFB.

With the closing of the base this Spring, the 14th will be inactivated for the third time. Until the next activation the traditions of the 14th will be kept alive by the cadets at the Air Force Academy.

First Lieutenant William F. Graves, USAF

AIR FORCE DINING IN NIGHTS

Final Dining-In Night for the 14th Fighter Group, Ethan Allen AFB, Vt., had Major General Sam. W. Agee, 26th Air Division Commander, (left) as guest of honor. At right is Colonel John R. Kullman, Group Commander. This was the final formal affair for the 14th which is scheduled for inactivation this Spring.

Dining-In Nights are an Air Force adaption of one of the oldest military traditions. They stem from both the U.S. Army's Regimental Dinners and the Mess Dinners of the British and Canadian forces, in which so many USAF officers have served. By tradition they are stag affairs which give a commander the opportunity to eat with his officers and perhaps give a brief address after toasts to the Commander-in-Chief and the Unit. General Agee is wearing the new Air Force Mess Dress.

First Lieutenant William F. Graves, USAF

Official USAF photograph



PUBLICATIONS

Fellow C. E. Dornbusch has published the second in his series of military books at the Hope Farm Press: *The British Foot Guards, a Bibliography* by L. C. Silverthorne and W. D. Gaskin. Like its predecessor, this volume also appears in a limited edition of 300 copies. Included are works related to the five regiments of foot guards which the compilers felt would be of use to a student preparing a history of any or all of the units. Publications designed for intra-regimental use, such as standing orders, have been omitted as has material in periodicals. The 217 entries thus consist primarily of books about the Guards specifically or general military works in which there is a considerable body of material about the Guards. Each entry is descriptive with detailed information about the physical composition of the book and sometimes with additional comments about its coverage, the background of the author, and the like. There are also two indices, one of authors and one of subjects. It is a most useful compilation and should be indispensable to any student of the British Army. Copies may be obtained direct from Member Dornbusch for \$3.00.

* * *

Member Hermann W. Williams, Jr., reports that The Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington now has available for sale an attractive reproduction of a miniature bust of General Robert E. Lee, CSA, by Sir Moses Ezekiel, the original of which is in the collection of The Corcoran. This statuette, which is 7½ inches high and of simulated bronze, is mounted on a small attractive base and is priced at \$10.00 plus \$1.00 for shipping. The bust shows Lee in uniform.

* * *

The month of June witnessed the publication of a fine general survey of Medieval weapons by R. Ewart Oakeshott entitled *The Archaeology of Weapons* (Lutterworth Press, London, 45s—about \$6.30). Copiously illustrated with line drawings and 23 pages of photographs it traces the evolution of weapons from the Bronze Age through the Fifteenth century. The author's personal specialty has always been swords and daggers, and so these

arms are treated in greater detail than any of the other forms, and it is in his discussion of these that he makes his greatest contribution to knowledge. No general survey of this sort has been available in English until now, and the lack has been sorely felt. An appendix of date charts and end papers showing the routes and dates of the various migrations and invasions in Europe and the Near East do much to help the weapons student whose knowledge of early history may need refreshing.

* * *

The important part played by the small navy organized by George Washington in 1775 to harass the British supply lines to Boston has at least been given the complete and scholarly coverage it merits in *George Washington's Navy* by William Bell Clark, (Louisiana State University Press, \$5.00). Clark, an outstanding authority on the naval phase of the Revolution, has written an interesting, exciting, and well documented account of the successes and failures of this little fleet, which never numbered more than six small vessels.

In spite of some incompetent captains; lack of money to pay the seamen; delays in establishing prize courts, with the resultant delays in the distribution of prize monies; and several mutinies, the cruisers did send in fifty-five captures. Many of the cargos contained munitions, cannon, and supplies so badly needed by Washington's army; and the British were denied these same materials.

John Glover, best remembered as colonel of the Marblehead regiment, supplied the first vessel of this makeshift navy, his schooner *Hannah* of 78 tons. One of Glover's captains, Nicholson Broughton, was appointed to command the first armed vessel to be fitted out at Continental expense. Men from Glover's regiment were among the crew of the schooner.

Here is a book that should be in the reference collection of all students of the American Revolution, for the effect of Washington's navy on events in 1775-1776 has been overlooked, or covered inaccurately or inadequately by most historians.

* * *

Medicine and the Navy, 1200-1900, by J. J. Keevil. Vol. I, 1200-1649; 255 pages, 1957. Vol. II, 1649-1714; 332 pages, 1958. E&S Livingston Ltd., Edinburgh and London; Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, Md., exclusive U.S. agents. Illustrated, appendix, bibliography, index. \$8.50 per volume.

It is to be greatly regretted that Dr. Keevil's untimely death in 1957 cut short his monumental and excellently written story of the development of medicine and surgery in the British Navy. He was not only a medical historian of the highest caliber, but a fine naval historian as well. The book is not only the story of surgeons and their work, but is also the history of England from the reign of Richard II to the founding of the Naval Hospital at Greenwich by Queen Anne early in the 18th century.

The story of the development of British sea power from a mere transport service in the medieval period to a fighting force makes for most interesting reading. In spite of improper diet, disease, hunger, and thirst, which many times had a greater effect on the success or failure of an expedition than enemy action, men continued to man Britain's ships, fight her wars, and open up new areas to trade or colonization. It is difficult to believe that human beings could have withstood the hardships of life at sea in those days, but hope of gain and a desire to extend the Empire were greater than fear of death at sea. As new areas were visited, new diseases were introduced to which the scanty medical knowledge of the period had no answer. Too often, there were insufficient men to work the ships. A grim and at times brutal story, but it is a picture of the times.

Medicine and the Navy will be of great value to all interested in the sea and of the history of the period of colonial expansion and conquest. The comprehensive bibliographies that follow each section of the book will be of inestimable help to all students of naval affairs and life at sea. The illustrations are excellent reproductions of contemporary prints and documents and make an interesting supplement to the text.

James C. Tily

* * *

The first complete biography of General John Glover has just been published by Henry Holt. The book, written by Dr. George Athan Billias, an Associate Professor of History at the University of Maine is titled *General John Glover and*

his Marblehead Mariners. Despite the title, however, the narrative covers more than the military exploits of the Massachusetts sailors and fishermen who filled the ranks of the 14th Continental Foot in 1775-76. Glover's brigades in later battles find a place although the loving care of the author in developing character and spirit is lavished mainly on the men of the first unit.

Professor Billias has done considerable research in primary sources to develop a picture of Marblehead and its inhabitants just before the Revolution. The work was well done for the resulting thorough background sketch is needed to give depth to the image of Glover which he creates. Properly, John Glover is a hero of the Revolution, though one who has not received his just due, but the author has not tried to claim unsupported fame for him. Billias has pointed out a number of instances where careless historians, including some quite well known, have credited Glover with actions—for instance, at the evacuation of Rhode Island—which he did not perform.

The price of the book, \$5.50, is just about in line with what it should be considering that it will appeal for the most part to well-read students of the Revolution and not too much to the general public. To fully enjoy the biography the reader has to have a good grasp of the military detail of the battles. The maps used are not original to the book but rather borrowed from other recent works; they bear only passing relation to the text. The illustrations are poorly presented in a signature that mixes type, shape, and form tastelessly. A reproduction of a COMPANY plate by McBarron is incorrectly credited, an inadvertent error that will be corrected in later printings. Despite the undistinguished illustrations setup, the book's research is excellent and its writing worthy of the effort that went into its making; it is a real contribution to Revolutionary literature.

RECORDS

Oscar Brand has recorded two new discs in his military series for Elektra Records. Collectors already familiar with his *Wild Blue Yonder* and *Every Inch a Sailor* will now welcome *Tell It to the Marines* and *Out of the Blue*. The former is a collection of Marine songs of World War II and Korea, and the latter presents more songs of the Air Force. Authenticity is high for both, which means that these records are definitely not for

children or those who blush easily. There has been a bit of bowdlerization here and there when it was absolutely necessary, but the final result is entirely faithful to the spirit of the originals. And the original words are usually quite obvious to anyone with a passing military vocabulary.

The Marine record contains such old favorites as "Call Out the Corps," "The Reserves' Lament," "Moving On," "Dinky Die" and "'Bless' 'em All" along with a good many others not quite so famous. Documentation for the versions presented consisted of regimental song books, notes made in the field, and actual recordings of Marines singing in the South Pacific.

Out of the Blue sprang from the demand created by the first compilation of Air Force songs, *The Wild Blue Yonder*, which has been the best seller of all the service records. Like many a sequel, it has a tough job following the fine selection in the original, but nevertheless it presents some fine additional pieces. It is a pity that one of the really standard songs "Into the Air, Junior Birdmen" is missing from both records, but perhaps someday there will be a third number in the series. It is also to be hoped that Brand will get around to doing a similar record on the Army to carry further the work he began in his Riverside release "G. I."

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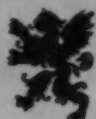
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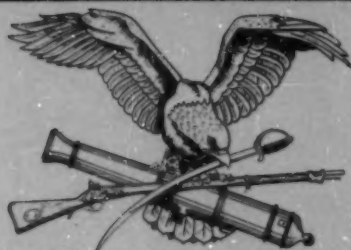
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